

Semi-Annual Report

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The effort to facilitate the flow of information between life scientists, particularly space biologists, has progressed substantially during the time covered by this report. Not only is "government report" and "open" literature under better control than formerly, but also, incipient informal communication networks can now be identified. At the moment, the number of biologists involved is relatively small; however, experience leads us to believe that they will increase and that their effectiveness will also increase. Concomittant with this is the increase in the numbers and quality of request for information (not documents) received by the BSCP.

Activities during the period may be categorized as follows:

1. A search and evaluation of the literature has been conducted in an effort to discover the nature and degree of correlation between cyclosis and radiosensitivity in cells and simple cellular systems.
2. Technical assistance and information have been provided staff members of the Space Biosciences Programs Office. Individuals involved have been Dr. G. Jacobs, Mr. L. Hall, Dr. D. Bellville, Dr. D. Jenkins, Mr. R. Schmidt, and others. Limited assistance and information has been provided biologists at Ames Research Center, at their request.

3. The continuing investigation into and concern for secondary source of information resulted in the preparation and dissemination of a report-
"Abstracting and Indexing Coverage of the Literature of Space Biology."
This work continues and negotiations are now underway to increase the coverage of space biology by the BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Coverage continues to increase in INTERNATIONAL AEROSPACE ABSTRACTS. Informal discussions with individuals in the NASA Scientific and Technical Information Division have been held and concern new possibilities for the dissemination of report documents.
4. A Space Biology Bibliography: 1958-1964 has been prepared and is in the final proofing and editing stage. It is anticipated that distribution will be in the form of a "Contractor Report."
5. Sources of critical reviews whose subject matter is space biology have been located and identified.
6. The development of interim specifications for bioclean facilities and the preparation of an annotated bibliography on the sterilization of large masses progresses on schedule.

7. We continue to develop information for and background materials pertinent to the preparation of status reports in space biology.
8. The report, "Russian Life in Space" was prepared and published. It was later up-dated and revised in response to a request from Dr. D. Jenkins.
9. The investigation into the Russian philosophy and practice regarding spacecraft sterilization and planetary contamination progresses on schedule.
10. The file of investigators, their research interests and physical facilities has been maintained and its present rate of increase is one demonstration of the increasing importance of space biology in the U.S.
11. A preliminary assessment of the information needs of space biologists, based upon informal communications with them, indicates that the single most pressing requirement is for information on a more timely basis.